AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a controlled-release pharmaceutical preparation with a particle-containing coating comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a drug-containing solid core;

b) suspending a pore-forming agent having a balanced solubility in an aqueous dispersion of a film-forming, essentially water insoluble polymer in order to form a coating suspension having a predetermined amount of solid particles of the pore-forming agent suspended therein

c) coating the solid core with the obtained suspension; and

d) drying the coating;

wherein the pore-forming agent is soluble in body fluids;

wherein the mean particle size of the pore-forming agent is 0.5-100 μm; and

wherein the amount of the pore-forming agent is 40-95% by weight of the total weight of the dry coating and;

wherein the coating provides good mechanical strength requiring a force of from 18N to 27N to break, compared to a force below 1N.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the solubility of the pore-forming agent is below 30 mg/ml in the aqueous coating dispersion.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A method according claim 1, wherein the mean particle size of the pore-forming agent is 1-25 μm.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pore-forming agent is selected from a group consisting of potassium salts, calcium salts, magnesium salts, amino acids, weak acids, carbohydrates, polymers with amino and/or acid functions or a composition wherein at least one of the components is selected from one of these groups.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pore-forming agent is potassium bitartrate, creatine, aspargine, glutamine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, leucin, neroleucine, inosine, isoleucine, magnesium citrate, magnesium phosphate, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, magnesium oxide or a composition wherein at least one component is selected from one of these substances.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pore-forming agent is chitosan and poly(butyl methacrylate, (2-dimethyl aminoethyl) methacrylate, methyl methacrylate) 1:2:1.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the water insoluble polymer is selected from one of the groups of cellulose esters, acrylic polymers, polyvinyl acetates, polyvinyl chlorides or a composition wherein at least one component is selected from one of the groups.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating polymer is ethylcellulose, celluloseacetate, celluloseacetatebutyrate, celluloseacetatepropionate,

nitrocellulose, polymethylmethacrylate, poly(ethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate), polyvinylacetate, polyvinylchloride, polyethylene, polyisobutylene, poly(ethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, trimethylamoinioethylmethacrylate chloride), a block- or copolymer of the polymers or a composition wherein at least one of the components is selected from these polymers.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating polymer is a copolymer consisting of 50-100% by weight of polyvinyl chloride and 0-50% by weight of polyvinyl acetate.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating polymer is a copolymer consisting of 80-95% by weight of polyvinylchloride, 0.5-19% by weight of polyvinylacetate and 0.5-10% by weight of polyvinylalcohol.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the solid core includes at least one drug selected from the group consisting of tranquillizers, antibiotics, hypnotics, antihypertensives, antianginas, analgesics, anti-inflamatoriees, neuroleptics, antidiabetics, diuretics, anticholinergics, antihyperacidics or antiepileptics, ACE inhibitors, β-receptor antagonists and agonists, anaesthetics, anorexiants, antiarrythmics, antidepressants, anticoagulants, antidiarrhoeatiels, antihistamines, antimalariels, antineoplastics, immunosuppressives, antiparkinsonians, antipsychotics, antiplatelets, diuretics, antihyperlipidics.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the drug for the solid core is potassium chloride, theophylline, a theophylline salt, phenylpropanolamine, sodium salicylate, choline theophyllinate, paracetamole, carbidopa, levodopa, diltiazem, enalapril, verapamil, naproxen, pseudoephedrine, nicorandil, oxybutynin, morphine, oxycodone or propranolol.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous dispersion includes at most 20%~~, preferably at most 10% and most preferably at most 5%~~ by weight of organic solvent.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the obtained coated cores are cured with heat or moisture.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the pore-former in the coating suspension is stabilized with one or more ionic, non-ionic or polymer surfactants.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating polymer is plasticized.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A controlled-release pharmaceutical preparation comprising:

a drug-containing solid core; and

a coating on the solid core, said coating having a water insoluble polymer with a predetermined amount of particles of a pore-forming agent dispersed therein, said pore-forming agent having a balanced solubility in an aqueous dispersion of a film-forming, essentially water insoluble polymer

wherein the mean particle size of the pore-forming agent is 0.5-100 μm; and

wherein the amount of the pore-forming agent is 40-95% by weight of the total weight of the dry coating and;

wherein the coating provides good mechanical strength requiring a force of from 18N to 27N to break, compared to a force below 1N.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A controlled-release pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 17, wherein the pore-forming agent is a member selected from the group consisting of: potassium bitartrate, creatine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, inosine, aspargine, glutamine leucin, neroleucine, isoleucine, magnesium phosphate, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, chitosan and poly (butyl methacrylate, (2-dimethyl aminoethyl) methacrylate, methyl methacrylate) 1:2:1 or a composition wherein at least one component is selected from one of these substances.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A controlled-release pharmaceutical ~~P~~preparation according to claim 17, wherein the amount of the pore-forming agent is 50-90% by weight of the total weight of the dry coating.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A controlled-release pharmaceutical ~~P~~preparation according to claim 17, wherein the polymer is ethylcellulose, celluloseacetate, celluloseacetatebutyrate, celluloseacetatepropionate, nitrocellulose, polymethylmethacrylate, poly(ethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate), polyvinylacetate, polyvinylchloride, polyethylene, polyisobutylene, poly(ethylacrylate, methylmethacrylate, trimethylamonioethyl methacrylate chloride), a block- or copolymer of the polymers or a composition wherein at least one of the components is selected from these polymers.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A controlled-release pharmaceutical ~~P~~preparation according to claim 17, wherein the coating polymer is a copolymer consisting of 50-100% by weight of polyvinyl chloride and 0-50% by weight of polyvinyl acetate.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A controlled-release pharmaceutical ~~P~~preparation according to claim 17, wherein the coating polymer is a copolymer consisting of 80-95% by weight of polyvinylchloride, 0.5-19% by weight of polyvinylacetate and 0.5-10% by weight of polyvinylalcohol.

Claim 23. Cancelled

Claim 24. Cancelled

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A controlled-release pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 17, wherein the amount of pore-forming agent is 55-88% by weight of the total weight of the dry coating.